

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending in the application. Claims 5-7 are withdrawn.

Claims 1, 4/1 are rejected.

Claims 2, 3, 4/2 and 4/3 are objected to by the Examiner.

The disclosures is objected to because of informalities.

Claims 1 and 4/1 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants' Admitted Prior Art, hereinafter AAPA, in view of Suzuki Yasuo (JP 2001-230567).

The Applicants traverse the rejections and request reconsideration.

Detailed Comments

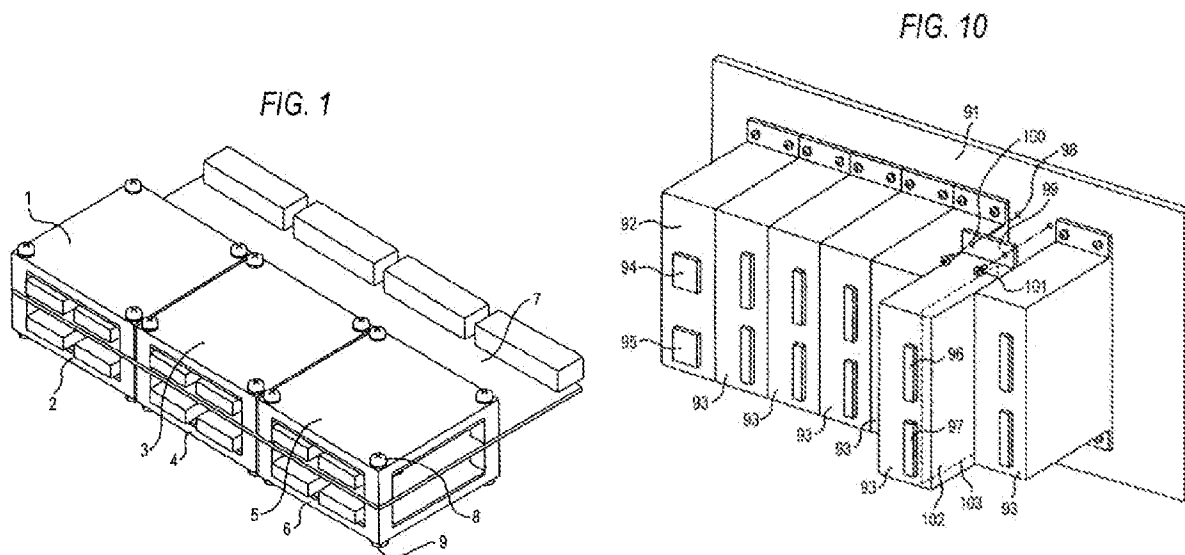
Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of alleged informalities. The Examiner incorrectly contends that the Applicants are required to include a statement indicating the relationship to the PCT application and the foreign priority application. The Applicants respectfully submit that the US laws require such a statement only for Applications to which domestic priority is claimed under section 120 or section 119(e). There is no such requirement indicating the relationship to the corresponding PCT Application or the foreign priority Application.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Rejection of claims 1 and 4/1 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants' Admitted Prior Art, hereinafter AAPA, in view of Suzuki Yasuo (JP 2001-230567).

The present invention, as recited in claim 1, requires that the multi-shaft amplifier modules be mounted on both surfaces of the multishaft interface substrate.



The conventional structure shown in Fig. 10 has the amplifier modules 93 arranged on one side of the substrate 10. On the other hand, the present invention (as shown in the exemplary embodiment of Fig. 1, requires the amplifier modules 5 & 6 to be on opposite sides of the substrate 7.

The Examiner cites the Suzuki reference for its alleged teachings regarding electronic circuits to be arranged on both sides of the circuit board. Please note that Suzuki is a Japanese language reference.

The Examiner alleges that the portion labeled by the reference numeral 5 of SUZUKI (JP-A-2001-230567) corresponds to the claimed multishaft servo-amplifier module. However, the portion labeled by the reference numeral 5 of SUZUKI is an electric circuit element.

Partial translation of [0013] of Suzuki

[0013] In Figs 1 to 6, a reference numeral 5 denotes an electric circuit element on a printed circuit board 4. In Figs 1 and 2, a reference numeral 6 denotes a cover.

That is, what is disclosed in Suzuki is arranging electric circuit elements 5 on both sides of the printed circuit board 4.

In contrast, in the method of the amended claim 1, the plurality of multishaft servo-amplifier modules are mounted on both sides of the multishaft interface substrate, and each of the plurality of multishaft servo-amplifier modules including a printed board and a semiconductor power element carried on the printed board. Since the claimed multishaft servo-amplifier module includes at least a printed board and a semiconductor power element, the claimed multishaft servo-amplifier module does not correspond to the electric circuit elements 5 which is a single element.

Therefore, even if a AAPA and Suzuki are combined, the combination does not disclose all limitations of the amended claim 1, so that the rejection should be withdrawn.

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, not in applicant's disclosure. MPEP 2143 citing *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

The Examiner has not established obviousness of the present invention (as recited in claim 1) by the combined teachings of AAPA and Suzuki at least because the combined teachings do not suggest the claimed multi-shaft servo-amplifier module. Therefore, the finding of obviousness of claim 1 by AAPA and Suzuki must be withdrawn. Since the “all elements” prong of the three prong test for obviousness fails, the motivation prong must also fail.

Allowed claims

The Applicants respectfully place the allowed claims to remove dependency from the presently rejected base claims. These claims should now be allowed.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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